



# NATIONAL LEAGUE OF POSTMASTERS OF THE UNITED STATES

1023 North Royal Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-1569 • Telephone-(703) 548-5922 • FAX-(703) 836-8937

---

April 7, 1998

Honorable John M. McHugh  
Chairman  
Committee on Government Reform and Oversight  
Subcommittee on the Postal Service  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6143

Dear Mr. Chairman:

First let me thank you for giving us the opportunity to participate in the development of H.R. 22, the Postal Reform Act of 1997.

The revisions that have been proposed to the original bill have, in our opinion, improved the overall bill.

As you recall, in our original and follow-up testimony, we did not take a position on several provisions of the bill. We continue to maintain that neutral position with minor exceptions. We support your revision to place Special Services in the noncompetitive category (Title X, Subsections 3723(a) and 3741). We also have more than a casual interest in both the development and long-term impact of the provision (Title X, Section 1002) that would authorize the Postal Service to establish a separate private "for profit corporation," which among other things, would be authorized to engage in any postal or non-postal business. We would be most interested in being included in discussions relating to this issue.

We support several of the proposed revisions to the bill. These include the retention of the titles of Postmaster General and Deputy Postmaster General (Title I, Section 102). We also support the modification of the Postal Employee-Management Commission that would be established (Title III, Section 301). Our original position asked that the discussion and efforts to resolve our Labor-Management problems be addressed internally among the parties involved. Since it appears that this is not feasible at the present time, we support the revision to have the study conducted by the National Academy of Public Administration.

---


Honorable John M. McHugh  
April 7, 1998  
Page 2

The elimination of the Mailbox Demonstration Project (Title VII, Section 704) resolves, in our opinion, the sanctity issues associated with access to the mailbox. We also support the elimination of the appeal process that was contained in the original bill (Title VIII, Section 801). The revision creating criminal penalties for Stalking Federal Officers and Employees (Title IX, Section 911) also is an improvement over the original language.

While we believe that the revisions proposed to H.R. 22 make it a better bill, we believe that the Postal Service should be able to represent itself in its international dealings (Title II, Section 202) without the inclusion of the U.S. Trade Representative as the head of the delegation at inter-governmental meetings. We also continue our opposition to the provisions which would permit the private carriage of mail outside the Postal Service when the amount paid is at least \$2.00 (Title VII, Section 703). We continue to believe that it is in the best interests of the Postal customers and the Postal Service to maintain the current differential.

We thank you for this opportunity to respond to the revisions that have been proposed.

Sincerely,

  
William P. Brennan  
President

:rb